

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 741

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Battle Ground Academy girls' soccer team upon winning the 2007 TSSAA Division II, Class AA State Championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful sports teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, the Battle Ground Academy girls' soccer program is one such estimable sports team that achieved an extraordinary level of success during the 2007 season, establishing a record of sixteen wins against only one loss and five ties on the way to claiming the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Division II, Class AA girls' soccer state championship and securing a ranking of ninth place in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches of America Association (NSCAA); and

WHEREAS, the highly accomplished and athletically gifted young women of the Battle Ground Academy soccer team won the state title by prevailing over the powerhouse team of Baylor School of Chattanooga (2-1) on November 2, 2007, at the Girls' Preparatory School soccer field in Chattanooga; and

WHEREAS, down one goal at half-time after an early Baylor score at the nine-minute mark, the Lady Wildcats of Battle Ground Academy rose to the occasion as *The Tennessean's* 2007 girls soccer Player of the Year Susannah Dennis scored on a penalty kick at the fifty-eighth minute mark and then put another ball in the back of the net in the sixty-second minute on a free kick fifteen yards outside the penalty box to seal the victory; and

WHEREAS, along the way to the state title the 2007 Battle Ground Academy Lady Wildcats devoured the competition, claiming, both the Middle Region and the Sub State championships to advance to the state finals; and

WHEREAS, head coach Jan Browne, named Division II Coach of the Year, laid the groundwork for this year's championship team by sharing with these young women her substantial knowledge of soccer, her many years of coaching and athletic experience, and her passion both for the sport of soccer and for excellence in every endeavor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the able leadership of Coach Browne, the Lady Wildcats also benefited from the tireless and committed work of coach Steve Lape, who led the team to a state championship title in 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Battle Ground Academy girls soccer team includes: seniors Anne Phillips, Natalie Aaron, Syd Bailey, Jessica Smith, and Julianne Isaacs; juniors Susannah Dennis, Kacie Lape, Bridget Winstead, and Candice Boyte; sophomores Alex Rollins, Catey Hunter, Jessica Poisson, Yomna Waly, Andrea Hughes, Taylor Mulderig, Robinson McFarland, and Julia Bell; freshmen Megan Grindstaff, Maddie Beth Wall, Leyla MacLean, Emily Snider, Jordan Saharski, Rachael Cunningham, Maggie Barlow, Molly Boyte, Chloe Tillman, Layla Norbash, and Felicia Savas; and eighth-graders Kinsey Sessions and Mary Hannah Winstead; and

WHEREAS, wholly deserving of awards and accolades, five Lady Wildcats, defenders Natalie Aaron and Anne Phillips, forwards Syd Bailey and Susannah Dennis, and goalkeeper Jessica Smith, were named to the All State Team with team captains Natalie Aaron, Jessica Smith, and Susannah Dennis also earning All Mid-State and Middle Region honors; and

WHEREAS, Lady Wildcat Natalie Aaron was named Middle Region Most Valuable Player and Player of the Year in addition to being named to the NSCAA All Region III team, while teammate Jessica Smith was named as a Wendy's High School Heisman State Finalist; and

WHEREAS, junior Susannah Dennis was named All Mid-State Player of the Year and committed to play college soccer at the University of Georgia in 2009; four seniors will play college soccer next season: Natalie Aaron (South Carolina), Syd Bailey (Lincoln-Memorial), Anne Phillips (Wofford), and Jessica Smith (Furman); and

WHEREAS, the Battle Ground Academy Lady Wildcats epitomize all that is good in today's student-athletes, as they have achieved a premier level of success in competition while showing the highest degree of character both on and off the field; and

WHEREAS, the perseverance, determination, work ethic, and talent of this group of young women not only made possible a championship soccer season, but also surely bode well for their success in every future enterprise; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud the Battle Ground Academy girls' soccer team on winning the 2007 TSSAA Division II State Championship and for serving as examples of the exceptional quality of the youth of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate head coach Jan Browne and the Battle Ground Academy girls' soccer team players upon winning the 2007 TSSAA Division II, Class AA Championship and wish them every success in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.